

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 04598 072342Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01

ACDA-12 /072 W

-----125236 080621Z /10

R 072213Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1208

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

SUSCINCSO QUARRY HTS CAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4598

SECDEF FOR CNO (OP-63) AND DSAA (ISA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT

SUBJ: AVAILABILITY OF TRAINER AIRCRAFT FOR GUATEMALA

1. THE COMMANDER OF THE GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE (GAF) HAS INFORMALLY RPT INFORMALLY REQUESTED AVAILABILITY AND PRICE INFORMATION FOR SIX BEEHCRAFT T34C'S, PROPELLER-DRIVEN TRAINERS.

2. REASON FOR INFORMAL REQUEST IS TO SAVE TIME AND LESSEN EMBARRASSMENT OF POSSIBLE REFUSAL.

3. GOG IS AWARE THAT THE U.S. HAS RECENTLY SOLD THIS AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR, VENEZUELA AND POSSIBLY ARGENTINA; ALSO AWARE THAT SOME LA COUNTRIES OF COMPARABLE SIZE HAVE THEIR OWN FLIGHT TRAINING. T34C WAS DEMONSTRATED BY FACTORY REPRESENTATIVE TWO YEARS AGO IN GUATEMALA CITY.

4. IN THE PAST 35 YEARS, THE GOG HAS RELIED UPON THE U.S. FOR PILOT TRAINING. THEY NOW CONCLUDE IT NECESSARY TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN BASIC FLIGHT TRAINING. COMBINATION OF REASONS INCLUDES: NEED TO TRAIN MORE PILOTS TO REDUCE CURRENT SHORTAGE  
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 04598 072342Z

OF JUNIOR OFFICERS IN GAF, AND ON A CONTINUING BASIS TO OFFSET INCREASING PILOT ATTRITION RATE FROM THE GAF TO CIVIL AVIATION, ETC; INCREASED COST OF US TRAINING TO A LEVEL VERY EXPENSIVE FOR THE GAF; NEED TO USE LIMITED IMET (IF APPROVED) FOR HELICOPTER AND SPECIALIZED FLYING COURSES (SUCH AS INSTRUMENT FLYING, FLIGHT SAFETY, PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING) THEY CANNOT PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES; GAF DISSATISFACTION WITH RECENT

TRAINING FROM THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES.

5. THE US MISSION SUPPORTS THE POTENTIAL SALE OF THIS  
UNSOPHISTICATED TRAINER. GAF HAS EXPERTISE TO CONDUCT FLYING  
TRAINING PROGRAM AND REQUEST MAKES SENSE FROM ITS STANDPOINT.  
MILGP BELIEVES THIS AIRCRAFT IS MOST SUITABLE CHOICE FOR GUATE-  
MALAN NEEDS. PURCHASE WOULD NOT REPRESENT HEAVY FINANCIAL  
BURDEN TO GOG, AND WOULD NOT REPRESENT ANY PARTICULAR MILITARY  
"BUILD-UP" WITH REGARD TO REGIONAL STABILITY OR NEW CAPABILITIES.  
WE SEE NO DIRECT HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT.

6. GAF IMPATIENT FOR ANSWER. WOULD WANT EARLY DELIVERY FOR  
AT LEAST FIRST OF THE AIRCRAFT.  
BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PILOT TRAINING, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978GUATEM04598  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AVAILABILITY OF TRAINER AIRCRAFT FOR GUATEMALA  
**TAGS:** MASS, GT, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014